

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 97-1-27**

Date Prepared: January 23, 1997

For Work Week Commencing: January 27, 1997

Business Meeting Date & Time: January 27, 1997, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the PSC's world wide web site at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission Secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. USWC/Western Wireless Docket D96.9.150 - Discuss matters as necessary (1/28/97)
2. Local Competition Docket D96.2.16 - Discuss matters as necessary (1/28/97)
3. Resale Dockets D96.11.191/198 - Discuss matters as necessary (1/28/97)
4. USWC/AT&T Arbitration Docket D96.11.200 - Discuss matters as necessary (1/28/97)
5. USWC Docket D96.8.131 - Get direction to draft (1/28/97)
6. EAS Dockets D95.10.146 and D95.10.147 - Discuss draft final order (1/28/97)
7. MPC Docket D96.2.22 - Discuss and act as may be necessary on status of settlement negotiations, suspension of contested case, and any other matter (1/28/97)

8. West Yellowstone Gas Docket D96.11.187 - Discussion and final approval (1/28/97)
9. Cascade Gas Docket D96.11.188 - Discussion and final approval (1/28/97)
10. MDU Gas - Staff presentation on results of an MDU, MCC and PSC staff meeting concerning volatile gas prices and possible need for a mechanism to recognize such in rates on a more timely basis than semi-annual trackers (1/28/97)
11. The Commission's continued discussion of Electric Industry Restructuring and various legislation pertaining to customer choice in electricity and natural gas industries (1/28/97)
12. Weekly Scheduling Meeting - Will be held following the 9:00 a.m. Legislative work session on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT - Docket D96.10.180 (Will)

On November 7, 1996, PP&L filed Advice No. 96-112 proposing to discontinue its residential weatherization and zero interest loan program due to low participation and high program costs.

2. PACIFICORP - Docket D97.1.5 (Eric)

On January 13, 1997, PP&L filed an application seeking authority to issue and sell not more than 10,000,000 additional shares of its Common Stock under its Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan, as amended. This is an expansion of authority granted by the Commission in Docket No. 90.8.47, Default Order No. 5492. Based on the current rate of sales under the Plan, the Company anticipates that the new shares will be issued over a four-year period. A default order has been drafted.

3. BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT - Docket D96.12.219 (Eric)

On December 26, 1996, BHP&L filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on October 3, 1996. Requests for hearing were due by January 27, 1997. No requests have been received. This application will increase rates by \$19,486 over the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted.

4. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.1.3 (Vicki)

On January 8, 1997, US WEST Communications filed a proposal for a new project area in O'Rea Creek area in the Livingston Exchange.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.1.6 (Kate)

On January 13, 1997, US West Communications filed to introduce a coin line service for payphone service providers called "Smart PAL" to comply with recent FCC payphone orders implementing the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The filing also deletes some text concerning the operational characteristics of payphone providers.

2. PTI COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.1.7 (Kate)

On January 15, 1997, PTI Communications filed changes to its payphone services tariffs to comply with recent FCC payphone orders.

3. CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.1.9 (Kate)

On January 16, 1997, Citizens Telecom filed changes to its payphone services tariffs to comply with recent FCC payphone orders.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 97-2-3

New Filings Received in Past Week

N97.1.9 Citizens Telecom - Revise Payphone Service